

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed December 8, 2003, the shortened statutory period for filing a response expiring on March 8, 2004. Applicants submit herewith a three-month extension petition to reset the deadline for responding to the Official Action to and including June 8, 2004. In view of the following remarks and claim amendments, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and Notice of Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

The drawings have been rejected under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the drawings fail to show the cone shaped rotary screen claimed in claim 16. Applicants have amended Fig. 1 to clearly depict a cone shaped rotary screen. In accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention, the cone is shown to increase in diameter in the direction facing toward the accept outlet. For ease of distinction between the cone shaped rotary screen and the cylindrical rotary screen 7, the cone shaped rotary screen has been shown in phantom lines and has been annotated as 7'.

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants' regard as the invention. Original claim 15 covered two distinct situations, namely, where the predetermined angle is perpendicular to the direction of rotation of the rotary screen and where the predetermined angle faces the direction of rotation of the rotary screen. To clarify that which Applicants regard as the invention, claim 15 has been amended to clearly claim the predetermined angle being perpendicular to the direction of rotation of the rotary screen. Applicants have added new claim 23 to clearly claim the predetermined angle being an angle facing the direction of rotation of the rotary

screen. Applicants trust that such claim amendments will obviate the present rejection of claim 15.

The Examiner has rejected claims 10, 11, 13-17, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,404,065 issued to Ingemarsson ("*Ingemarsson*"). It is the Examiner's contention that the *Ingemarsson* reference discloses each of the features of rejected claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the *Ingemarsson* reference.

Notwithstanding, Applicants have amended claims 10 and 22, the only two independent claims rejected under § 102(b) to include the features that the at least one barrier member includes a pulse surface facing the rotary screen, the pulse surface having a shape such that the distance between the pulse surface and the rotary screen decreases in the direction of rotation of the rotary screen, the decrease beginning immediately following the intersection of the barrier member and the stator. As best shown in Fig. 2, *Ingemarsson* does not teach such features. Rather, *Ingemarsson* teaches a long extension member extending perpendicular to the stator that attaches to a barrier member with a tapering angle. The existence of the perpendicular planar extension member between the barrier member and the stator prevents the barrier member's pulse surface from decreasing in the direction of rotation of the rotary screen beginning immediately following the intersection of the barrier member and the stator.

Support for Applicant's amendment may be found at paragraphs [00038] through [00041] of the specification and the corresponding figures. Specification paragraphs [00038] through [00041] state:

The barrier/pulse element 12, in order to produce strong pressure pulses to the pulp suspension in the screen chamber 9 upon rotation of the screen means 7,

is suitably designed as shown in Fig. 3. Facing toward the screen means 7, the barrier/pulse element 12 has a pulse surface 14, where the distance between the pulse surface 14 and screen means 7 decreases in the rotational direction of the screen means, to the point where the barrier/pulse element 12 is located closest to the screen means 7. When the accept approaches the barrier/pulse element 12, it is thus forced, by the shape of the barrier/pulse element 12, out through the screen means 7 and out into the screen chamber 9.

In Fig. 4 the same design of the barrier/pulse element as in Fig. 3 is shown, but in this case the barrier/pulse element is not attached to the stator 8, but is formed as a single unit with the stator 8, which, of course, is also possible.

Fig. 5 shows a different embodiment of the barrier/pulse element 12, which has a smaller pulse surface 14 than the barrier/pulse element in Fig. 3. This barrier/pulse element 12, thus, does not produce equally strong pressure pulses. Fig. 6 shows another different embodiment of the barrier/pulse element 12, which is designed as a curved metal sheet. The barrier/pulse element, of course, can also be designed in other ways.

The portion of the barrier/pulse element 12 which faces the rotational direction of the screen means 7, should be designed so that it assists in guiding the accept out to the screen means 7. This surface should, as seen radially from the inside of the stator 8 and out to the screen means, be radial as in Fig. 5 or deflected in the rotational direction of the screen means 7, as in Fig. 6.

As it is believed that the rejection set forth by the Examiner under § 102(b) has been fully met, favorable reconsideration of claims 10, 11, 13-17, 21 and 22 is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 12 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ingemarsson*. Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 18-20 each ultimately depend from claim 10, which has been amended as previously discussed. As it is believed that claim 10 is in a condition for allowance based on such amendments and corresponding remarks, it is believed that claims 18-20, which depend from claim 10, are also in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

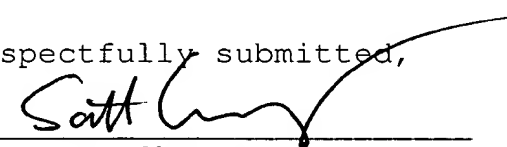
If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 8, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By



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ANNOTATED SHEET
SHOWING CHANGES

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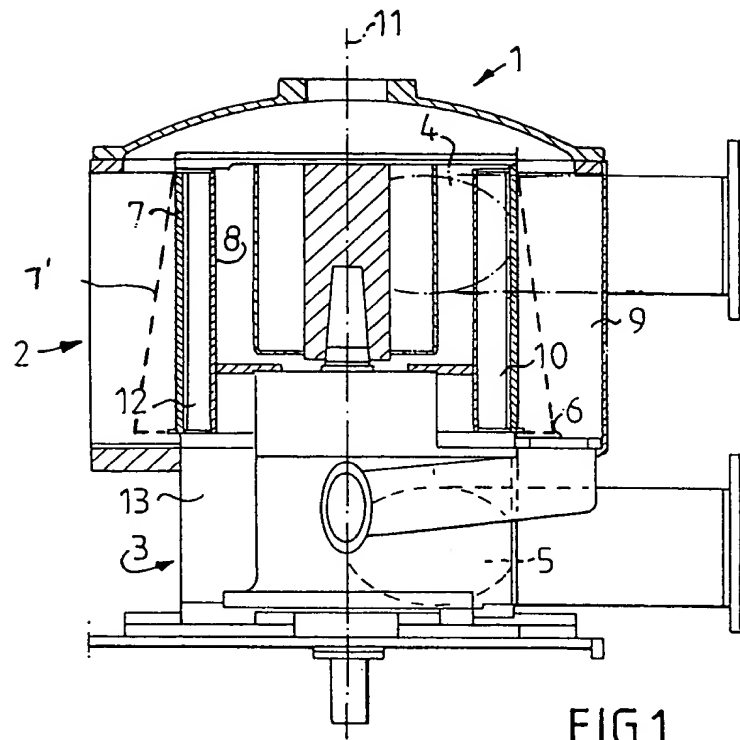


FIG. 1

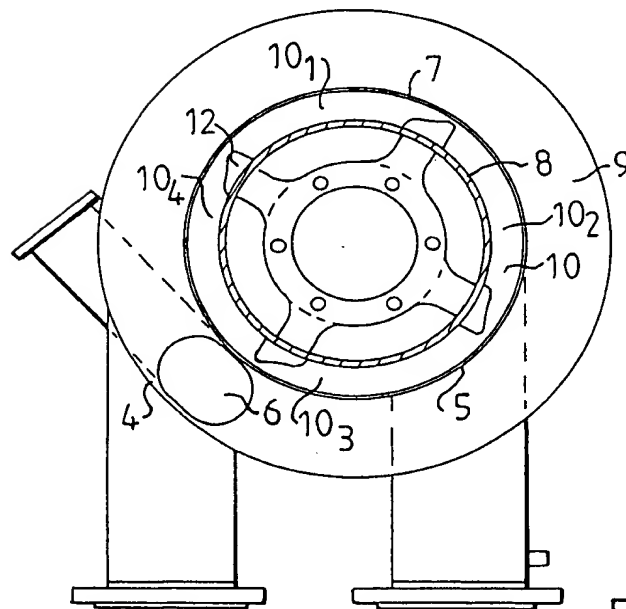


FIG. 2